21st G Fantasy Manga Competition

Introducing the Winning Artist!

Kusano Riku

First Place!

Sasabunechou Konjaku

Scanned by Bearclaw
Translated by Tani
Edited by Hoowee
QC by Kalendel
www.storminheaven.net

Story 21
The Introduction of
G Fantasy Manga's
First Prize Winner!

I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY. MOM SAYS THAT WE CAN'T KEEP YOU AT OUR HOUSE.
GURGLE
IT HURTS.
I'M...
DYING.
...AH.
The thing that sadness always gives birth to...

T/N: Inari is the kami (god) of fertility, rice, agriculture, foxes, industry, and success.

T/N: Ohagi - rice balls coated with sweetened red bean, soybean flour, or sesame.

AH.
I AM FINE.
MIZUCHI, YOU EAT THEM.
OH.
CAN IT!
DEPRESSED
HMPH.
Ahh...
UM,
LADY SHUU.
WHAT'S WRONG?
SOMEONE CAME TO THE SHRINE AND EVERYTHING.
...
Huh?

UM...
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE CAME TO THE SHRINE TODAY?
MIZU-CHI.
THAT IS THE PROBLEM.

DURING THOSE TIMES, HUMAN BEINGS SANG AND DANCED AT MY FEET.
IN THE PAST, THERE WERE FESTIVALS AT INTERVALS THROUGH-OUT THE YEAR.

JUST THAT OLD WOMAN FROM EARLIER...
RIGHT!
Decisive
FEELIN OF TRIUMPH

THIS SHRINE IS SURROUNDED BY SKY-SCRAPERS ON ALL FOUR SIDES.
AND NOW, EVERYONE HAS FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME AND MY KIND.

HUH?
AHH...
THAT IS CORRECT. ONE PERSON. JUST ONE!!

HOW LOW I HAVE FALLEN.

DIVINE SPIRITS SUCH AS OURSELVES GAIN POWER THROUGH EMPLOYING LARGE NUMBERS OF YOUKAI UNDERLINGS.
IT ALSO INCREASES OUR DIVINITY.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE PROBLEM IS THAT YOU AREN'T BRINGING IN MORE YOUKAI, SHIKI.
ORIN!
GRAB
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
EEK!
YOU HAVEN'T BROUGHT IN A SINGLE ONE EITHER, HAVE YOU, ORIN?
THAT IS NOT ONLY MY FAULT.
ANNOYED
WITH ONLY THAT, WE CAN'T EVEN LEAVE THE SHRINE.
DAMN IT.
WE ONLY HAVE MIZUCHI FOR OUR SERVANT.

TEAR
MENACE
MENACE
RUSTLE
NOT AS MUCH AS I DESPISE YOU!
I DESPISE YOU!
ARGH...
ARGH...
...
GROWL
AH, THEY'RE BACK.

MIZUCHI !!
YOU MUST BRING THEM TO US!
FREEZE
HOLD IT!!
NEITHER ONE OF US CAN LEAVE THE SHRINE.
FIZZLE
AT THIS RATE, WE BARELY HAVE ENOUGH POWER TOGETHER TO PROTECT THE SHRINE.
Y—
YESH, MA'AM!!
WHICH MEANS?
THE ONLY YOUKAI PROVIDING US WITH POWER IS...

AROUND HERE
HUH? COMES OUT...
NO WAY..
HEY, HEY
DID YOU KNOW?
IT COMES OUT...
IT'S TRUE.
!
WHOOSH
WH—
JUMP

SNOOZ
EEK...
INHALE
SCREECH
SCREECH
STOMP
GHOST
!!

sigh
...THAT WASN'T IT.
VROOM
!?
POKE POKE
HEY, YOU.
WH—
JERK BACK
WHAT ARE YOU?
YOU CAN SEE ME!?
WANT TO BECOME A YOUKAI?

BY YOUKAI,
DOES HE MEAN *THAT* KIND OF THING?
OF COURSE.
AFTER ALL, I AM A YOUKAI
A YOUKAI..
I CAME HERE TO MAKE YOU INTO A YOUKAI.
A FOLLOWER OF THE DIVINE SPIRITS OF SASABUNE'S INARI.
ME, A YOUKAI?
BUT I'M A HUMAN.
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD BE ONE.
NO.
YOU ARE NO LONGER A HUMAN.

...NN.
YOU'VE REALIZED, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU'VE BEEN SEPARATED FROM YOUR FLESH AND BECOME ONLY A SOUL.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE A GHOST.
THE FACT THAT YOU'RE STILL HERE. .
MEANS THAT YOU HAVE SOME REGRET.
THOSE REGRETS,
HATRED, SADNESS, MORTIFICATION, AND OTHER NEGATIVE FEELINGS,
ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO PROVIDE THE INITIAL POWER NEEDED TO BECOME A YOUKAI.

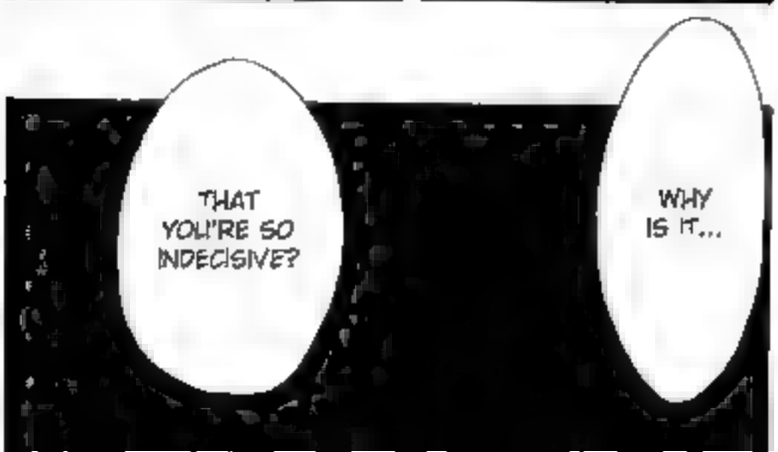
Hehe
PLUS, I'LL BE SAVED.
YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE HAPPIER AS A YOUKAI.
YOU'LL NO LONGER BE BOUND TO THE PLACE WHERE YOU DIED AS YOU ARE NOW.
WELL? IF YOU HAVE A POWERFUL MASTER, YOU'LL FORGET YOUR REGRETS.
AND YOU?
... ...
HUH?
HMM.
WELL, IT'S...
WHY DID YOU BECOME THEIR FOLLOWER?
ME?

OH, MY
GURGLE
BECAUSE THEY SAVED ME,
I GUESS.
EMERGE
I FEEL
STRONG REGRETS.
WE WILL TAKE
STEP
THERE'S A KITTEN AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS POND
THE POOR THING.
IT WAS ABANDONED BY HUMANS.
IT'S STAYING HERE WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING THAT IT'S DIED
THOSE REGRETS.

THE TWO OF THEM ARE COMPLETE OPPOSITES, SO MEDIATING BETWEEN THEM IS HARD,
BUT I THINK THAT IF YOU BECAME A YOUKAI, THE PAIN YOU FEEL NOW WOULD VANISH.

Geez...
HOW ANNOY-ING.
... ...

JUMP
BECOME A YOUKAI!
WHAT ...!!


THAT YOU'RE SO INDECISIVE?
WHY IS IT...

AH!!
GRAB
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
ONE IS YOURS.
SITE OF A SPEEDING ACCIDENT
PLEASE SLOW DOWN
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, I CAN FEEL TWO MINDS.
PERHAPS YOU'RE WAITING FOR SOMEONE . .
...OR SOME-THING?
FOR EXAMPLE, SOMEONE WHO DIED ...
WITH YOU.
OOZE OOZE
HEHE, BEING A YOUKAI SOUNDS SPLENDID.
I'LL BECOME ONE.
!?
REALLY!?
SMILE

KHIEL
KHIEL
SWAY
WHA—
!!

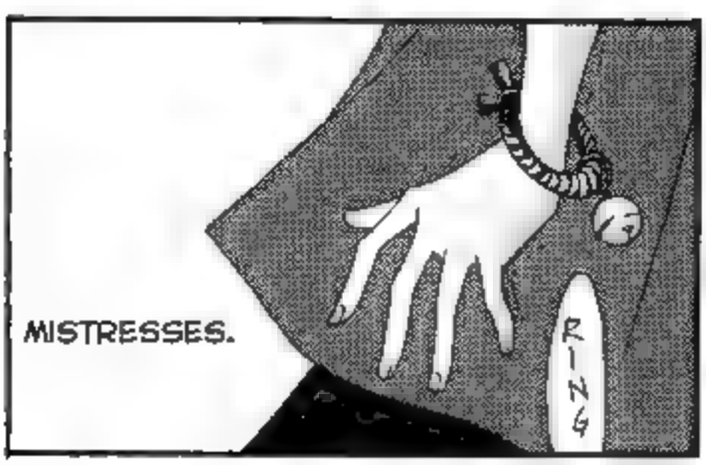
IT'S HER...
IT'S THE WEIRD CHICK WHO ALWAYS APPEARS AROUND ME.
?
BUT SOMEHOW, SHE'S DIFFERENT FROM USUAL.
SHE'S EVEN MORE CREEPY!!
REACH
WATCH OUT!!
AH
EEK
ZOOOOOM

WHAT A PAIN, MEETING UP WITH A BIG YOUKAI LIKE THIS.
CLACK CLACK CLACK
CLACK
I'LL JUST HAVE TO...
?
HA!
TA-DAH!
MY MISTRESSES'S SPECIAL ANTI-YOUKAI CHARMS!!
LEAP

INHALE
I WILL NOT GIVE ...
HIM TO YOU.
...TO YOU.
HEY—
BEHIND YOU!!
...I SEE.
THIS PERSON IS...
YOOOHE

DAMN IT.
WINCE

OH, MAN...
IS HE OK?


MISTRESSES.
RING

RING
MISTRESSES...

HOWL

STARTLE

THAT SOUND

IT'S MIZUCHI'S BELL

MIZUCHI, OUR PRECIOUS FOLLOWER.

WE PROMISE YOU YOUR EXISTENCE

IN RETURN FOR BECOMING OUR SERVANT,

WE WILL PROTECT YOU WITH ALL OF OUR STRENGTH

AT THAT TIME

IF DANGER SHOULD DRAW NEAR TO YOU,

THA
DMP
REACH
SHIFT

GRAB
ROAR
TAP

HEY.
CLICK
N... NO.
JUMP
YOU CHANGED INTO A DIFFERENT PERSON!!
ARE YOU INJURED?
REGRETS?
HER REGRETS MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE STRONG.
WHAT A PAIN.
SHE'S NOT A YOUKAI. SHE'S AN EVIL SPIRIT.
DIDN'T I TE... YOU?

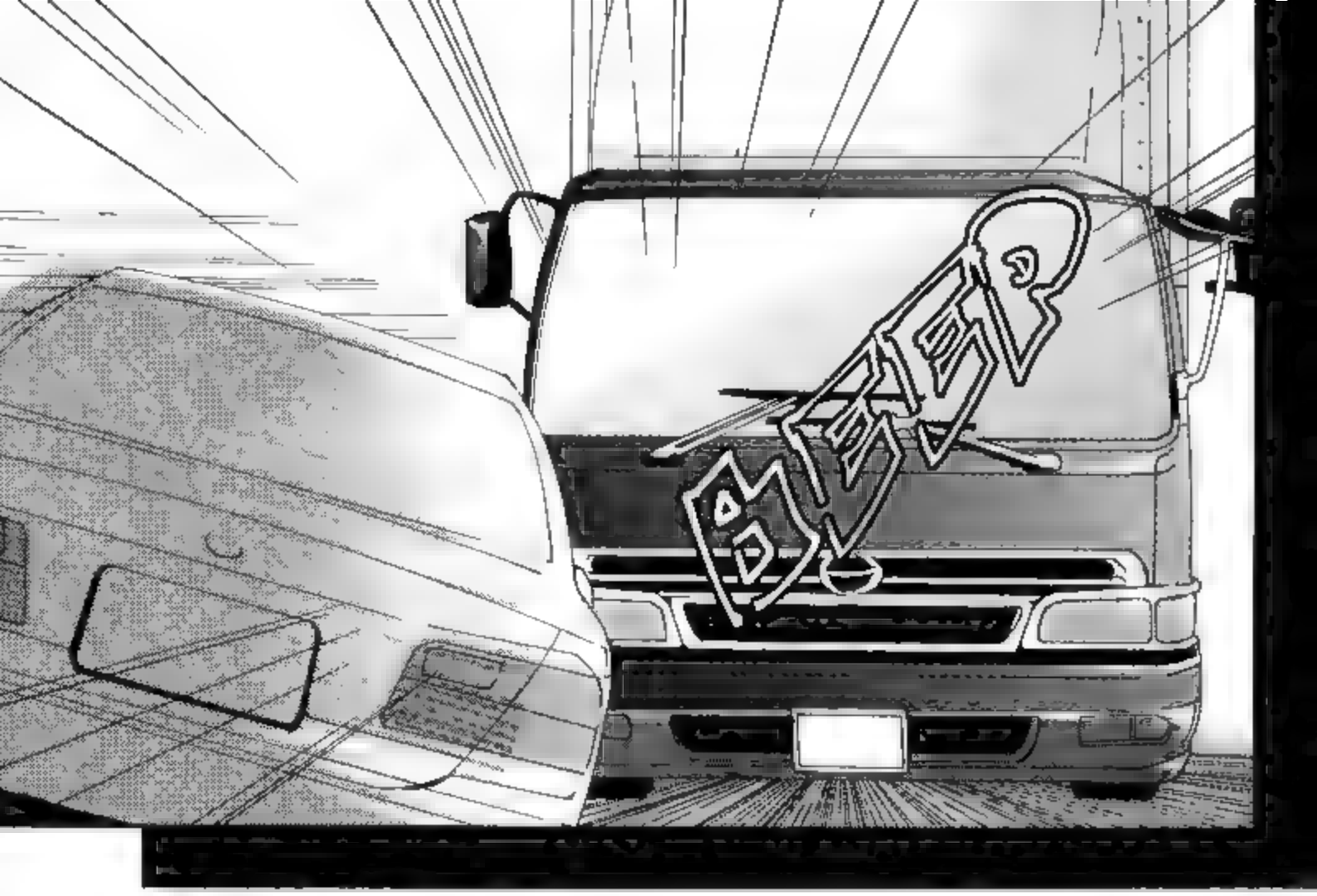
SWISH
REGRETS AND NEGATIVE EMOTIONS ARE THE SOURCE OF YOUKAI.
THE STRONGER YOUR REGRETS, THE MORE POWER YOU HAVE WHEN YOU BECOME A YOUKAI
JUMP
!
SWT
CRACKLE

SIZZLE
SIZZLE
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S ATTACHED TO YOU.
SHE'S TRYING TO PREVENT ME FROM MAKING YOU INTO A YOUKAI
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE HER REGRET?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OF WHO COULD HAVE...
CARED ABOUT YOU THIS MUCH?

...HEY.
MOM,
I WANT TO QUIT CRAM SCHOOL.
VROOOM
MATH III
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU DID TERRIBLE ON YOUR FINAL EXAMS.
.....
SO WHAT?
ALL YOU EVER TALK ABOUT ARE MY GRADES.
BEEP
BEEP

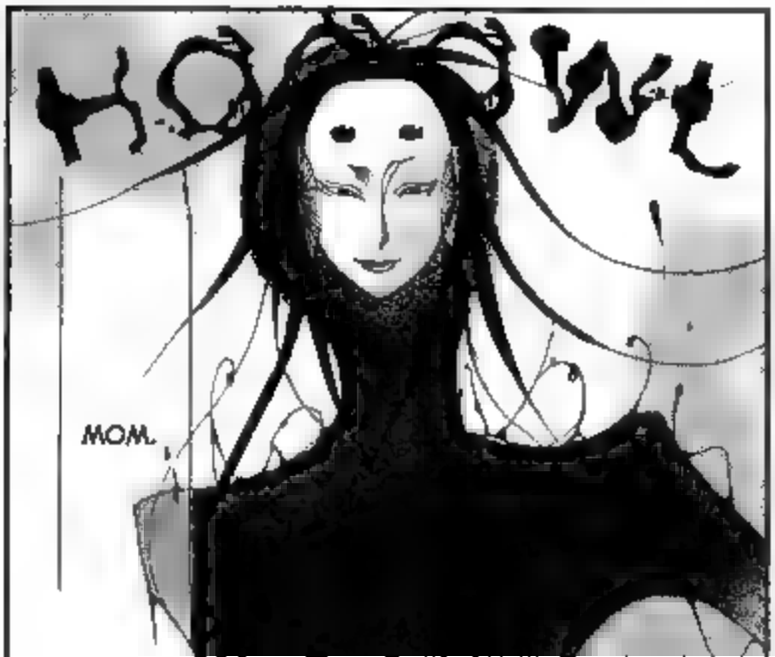
THROW
GRAB
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
SMASH
IT'S BECAUSE THIS IS ALL YOU DO THAT YOU'RE GOING TO TURN OUT NO GOOD!
...YOU PISS ME OFF.
OH, IS YOUR SON TRYING TO GET INTO WEST HIGH?
THAT'S AN EXCELLENT SCHOOL
MINE IS EAST HIGH.
OH, NO...
SO IS YOURS.
YOU PISS ME OFF!

GRAB
YOU JUST WANT TO SATISFY YOUR VANITY.
YOU DON'T SEE ME.
ALL YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ARE MY GRADES.
GRIND
WAIT!
THAT'S DANGER-OUS!
YANK
SCREECH


BEEP

CARED ABOUT YOU THIS MUCH?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OF WHO COULD HAVE...

I THOUGHT THAT IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.
BUT DESPITE THAT,


MOM.

DRAW
CLICK
THIS WILL END IT.
SWISH

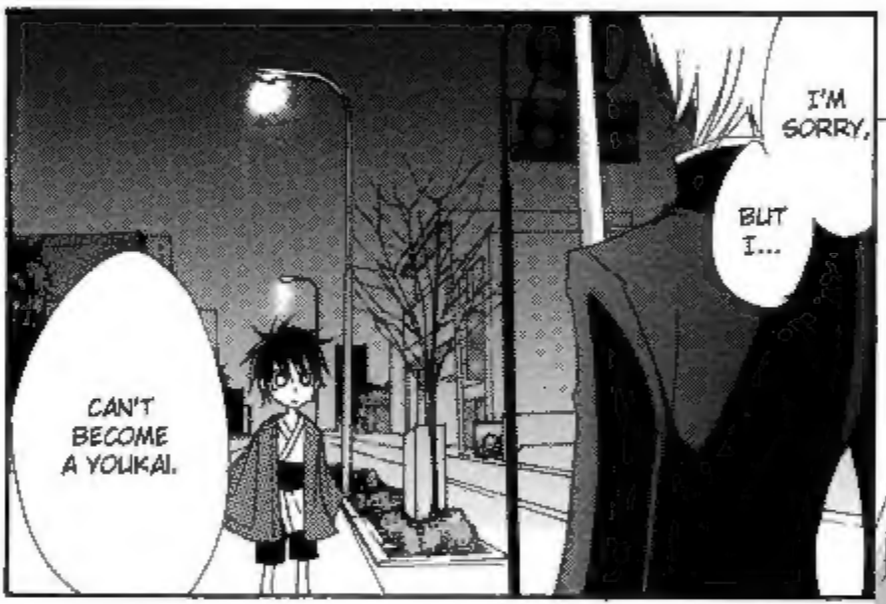
STEP
WAIT!!
HUH!?
HOLD...
STAB

THRUST
WH...AT?
IT DOESN'T HURT...
TURN
MOM...!
DON'T WORRY.
I KNOCKED YOUR FEELINGS INTO HER.
CLACK
!

WHOOSH
CRUMBLE
OPEN
MOM!
DASH

I DIDN'T...
KNOW ANYTHING.
I...
UM...
I'M SORRY.
TOUCH
YOU KNOW,
I WANTED TO PASS ON WITH YOU, MY SON.
IT'S OK.

I'M SORRY.


CAN'T BECOME A YOUKAI.
I'M SORRY,
BUT I...

YOU HAVE TO BECOME ONE...!!
NO WAY ...
WAH...
.....

HUH!?
WHAT !!?
BUT YOU SAID THAT YOU WOULD!

HEY.
BLINK

REACH
DON'T BE MAD.
I WANTED TO...

HMPH.
POUT
WHATEVER!

THANK YOU.

!
HISS...

Sasabune Shrine

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THEY'RE GOING TO BE MAD...
SIGH

AHH...
I ENDED UP NOT BRINGING ANYONE BACK.

YOU WERE DOING SOME INTERESTING PLAYING AROUND AGAIN.
RATTLE

POP

WHAT'S THIS?
!

AH, GEEZ.
I WISH I COULD CRAWL INTO A HOLE AND DIE!

T/N: Cutesy form of Mizuchi.

END